

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. Border Patrol – El Centro Sector
1111 North Imperial Avenue
El Centro, California 92243



NEWS RELEASE

February 19, 2003

Checkpoints are up

EL CENTRO, Calif. – Since January of 2002, the U.S. Border Patrol at the Indio Station has been tasked with maintaining the checkpoints on Highway 86 and 111 to deter the furtherance of illegal smuggling of aliens and drugs. Personnel increase have allowed the checkpoints to be operational 7 days a week, 24 hours a day since January 2003.

As the Indio Station continues to grow in the numbers of agents and shifts, so do apprehensions and drug seizures. There were 111 apprehensions for the month of January 2002 compared to 866 for January 2003 in this area of operation.

The checkpoints seized 694.69 pounds of marijuana with a total value of \$555,861.67 and .012 pounds of methamphetamine valued at \$550.00 from Jan. 12 through Feb. 18, 2003.

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